(d) what was the estimated total amount spent on these committees and commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on the Towards Freedom Volumes Dealing with the Year 1938

5118. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Towards Freedom volumes (in three parts) dealing with the year 1938 have been banned by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, why the above volumes were not formally released by the ICHR; and

(d) whether ICHR does not intend to publish the remaining volumes of this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The volume was released in September/October, 1999.

(d) The ICHR intends to publish the remaining volumes of Towards Freedom Project.

Policy on working of Autonomous Institutions

5119. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is change in policy on the working of autonomous institutions and universities under the Ministry in that there would be less autonomy and more reference to the concerned Ministry for action on all decisions;

(b) if so, whether decisions of the Selection Committees appointed by autonomous councils are only advisory in nature and the actual decisions are left to be taken by bureaucrates of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, whether the future policy of Government is being planned to centralise all decisions of autonomous councils to Ministerial levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The working of the autonomous institutions is regulated by the provisions of the Acts and Statutes or the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Bye-laws in case of registered societies. No changes have been introduced by the Government in this regard. The autonomous Institutions have however, to abide by the Financial rules of the Government where Government funds are availed of.

ICHR Controversy

5120. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item, captioned, ICHR Controversy Thickens, which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 20th April, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government are aware of the misapprehension prevailing in the academic circles about the intentions of Government; and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to assuage the misapprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) ICHR has stated that the allegations in the news item that the January 2000 issue of Indian Historical Review (IHR) has been held up indefinitely and a special committee has been appointed to review its contents before it is published are baseless and unfounded. The Members of the Editorial Board of IHR however scrutinised the articles to be published. All other allegations made in the news item are also contrary to the facts.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.